



Equitable access to basic needs and supports

Idea 40	Access to high-quality childcare and early childhood education
Proposal 40i	Promoting basic needs security in higher education
Description	<p>Create a sustained continuum of care. Basic needs security should be incorporated in the efforts to promote access to high-quality education in colleges/universities. 40% of California State University (CSU) students alone are experiencing food insecurity and 10% are experiencing homelessness, which has direct impacts on academic success and the ability to pursue career endeavors in the future; these issues are exacerbated during the pandemic. Colleges and universities need to increase their efforts to support students throughout their schooling, especially as those who are encountering these barriers come from marginalized populations (Black, Latinx, first-generation, former foster youth).</p>
How will the proposed action advance equitable health and well-being?	<p>When students in higher education are secure in their basic needs, they have a better capacity to focus on their schooling, pursuing extracurriculars that promote their professional experience (i.e., internships), and increasing their future success in their careers. The obstacles associated with basic needs insecurity (i.e., homelessness) has direct negative impacts on students' health and wellbeing; having this support to prevent and intervene will mitigate this harm. In the long-term, obtaining a college education helps to break generational cycles of poverty and increases access to opportunities across domains (i.e., jobs, access to health insurance, housing, etc.)</p>
Is there work we can build on?	<p>Basic Needs Research in the CSU system - Dr. Rashida Crutchfield (CSU Long Beach) & Dr. Jennifer Maguire (Humboldt State University)</p> <p>Basic Needs Initiative within the California State University system</p> <p>Basic Needs Research via Hope Center - Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab</p>
Who would have to act? Who would be key partners?	<p>University administration Faculty Community organizations Academics who research basic needs/insecurity research in higher education Fundors (private, endowment, or federal)</p>



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A few high-level action steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Conduct pilot studies to measure student success that counts student needs/insecurities as key factors2. Create mentorship programs that help students from marginalized communities (particularly first-generation college students) become adept at maneuvering in academia (e.g., how to become competitive for spots in programs, how to balance a course load, what is acceptable/unacceptable instructor behavior, etc)
Other comments or guidance	